

comprising a controller and a memory; a gaming machine operatively coupled to the central processing apparatus, the gaming machine comprising: a display unit; a bar code reader; and a controller operatively coupled to the bar code reader and the display unit, the controller of the gaming machine being programmed to allow play of a casino game; a change machine operatively coupled to the central processing apparatus, the change machine comprising: a display unit; a currency reader that accepts paper currency; a bar code printer; and a controller operatively coupled to the bar code printer, the currency reader and the display unit of the change machine, the controller of the change machine being programmed to transmit data representing a monetary amount to the central processing apparatus; the controller of the central processing apparatus being programmed to store the data received from the change machine in a first memory location in the memory of the central processing apparatus, the controller of the central processing apparatus being programmed to store status data in a second memory location in the memory of the central processing apparatus, the status data being indicative of whether the monetary amount has been paid, at least one of the first and second memory locations being identified by a memory address; the controller of the central processing apparatus being programmed to encode the memory address to form an encoded memory address; the controller of the central processing apparatus being programmed to transmit data representing the encoded memory address to the change machine; and the controller of the change machine being programmed to cause the bar code printer of the change machine to print a bar code representing the encoded memory address.

In another aspect, the invention is directed to a casino gaming system, comprising: a central processing apparatus

comprising a controller and a memory; a gaming machine operatively coupled to the central processing apparatus, the gaming machine comprising: a display unit; a bar code reader that reads a bar code representing an encoded memory address; a bar code printer; and a controller operatively coupled to the bar code reader, the bar code printer, and the display unit, the controller of the gaming machine being programmed to allow play of a casino game; the controller of the gaming machine being programmed to transmit data representing the encoded memory address to the central processing apparatus; the controller of the central processing apparatus being programmed to decode the encoded memory address data to generate a decoded memory address; the controller of the central processing apparatus being programmed to utilize the decoded memory address to make a status check as to whether a monetary amount has been paid; the controller of the central processing apparatus being programmed to transmit to the gaming machine data indicative of whether a credit corresponding to the monetary amount should be authorized; and the controller of the gaming machine being programmed to allow play of the gaming machine based on the data indicative of whether the credit should be authorized.

In another aspect, the invention is directed to a casino gaming system, comprising: a central processing apparatus comprising a controller and a memory; a gaming machine operatively coupled to the central processing apparatus, the gaming machine comprising: a display unit; a bar code printer; a controller operatively coupled to the bar code printer and the display unit, the controller of the gaming machine being programmed to allow play of a casino game; a change machine operatively coupled to the central processing apparatus, the change machine comprising: a display unit; a bar code reader; a currency dispenser; and a controller operatively coupled to the